

**NOTES OF THE MAIN GROUP MEETING ON:**



**Date: Monday 20 June 2022**

**Time: 16:30**

**Venue: Council Chamber, Ebley Mill**

**YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:**

**VOTING MEMBERS**

Cate James-Hodges **(L)** (Archway School)  
Jack Blakey (Berkeley Vale Youth Forum)  
Katie Bray (Berkeley Vale Youth Forum)  
Fin Smith **(BYC)** (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum)  
Maxie Wells\* (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum)  
Gabe Lowery (Chalford Cubed Youth Forum)  
Ben Stone (Marling School)  
Megan Land **(EN)** (Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF)  
Brandon Watkins\*\* (Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF)  
Morgan Smith **(HWB)** (Rednock School)  
Charlie Hayward (Stonehouse Action 4 Youth)  
Alice Standing **(BYC)** (Stroud High School)  
Lily Haines (Stroud Town & Five Valleys YF)  
Tom Wickham-Bassett **(LD)** (Stroud Town & 5 Valleys YF)  
Alyssa Pearce (Thomas Keble School)  
Lily Stothard (Wotton Youth Forum)

**DEPUTY MEMBERS**

P	Jacob Bray (Berkeley Vale Youth Forum)	A
AP	Ellie Archer (Cam & Dursley Youth Forum)	A
A	Olivia Burke (Nailsworth and Minchinhampton YF)	A
P	Barney Cookson (Thomas Keble School)	A
P	Joel Clark (Wotton Youth Forum)	A
AP		
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AP		
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**EX-OFFICIO**

**CO-OPTIONS**

**\*\* = Chairperson \* = Vice-Chairperson (L) = Leader**

**P = Present A = Absent AP = Apology given # = present for part of meeting**

**Principal Members: (AB) = Anti-Bullying; (HWB) = Health & Wellbeing; (EN) = Environment; (LD) = Local Democracy**

**(BYC) = Representatives to the British Youth Council**

**Others Present**

Steve Miles, Senior Youth Officer (SDC)  
Seb Williams, Youth Work Officer (SDC)  
Helen March, Former SDYC Chairperson  
Chris McGregor-Eadie, Project Manager (SDC)

## **1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, including guest speaker Helen March, former SDYC Chairperson and Chris McGregor-Eadie, SDC Project Manager. Apologies are listed on the record above, plus Cllr Nigel Prenter (SDC Community Services and Licensing Committee).

## **2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 30 May 2022**

A discussion on the inaccuracies of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting was had, with regards to the minutes of the meeting on 21 March not being re-presented (following a required amendment). It was agreed that this still needed to be done and they would therefore be re-presented at the next meeting.

With respective amendments made, the minutes of 30 May were proposed by Cate James-Hodges and seconded by Maxie Wells. Following a vote (4 Abstained, 0 Against, 5 For, including a Casting Vote by the Chair) they were approved.

Minutes from 21 March would still be presented at the next meeting.

## **3. Matters Arising (from 14 February and 21 March)**

### **a) Nomination of Co-options - Last Years (2021/22): Gloucestershire Young Carers; Gloucestershire Young Farmers:**

It was agreed to invite both the aforementioned organisations and explore if it was possible to have representation from an LGBTQ+ group.

### **b) Nomination for representatives to Neighbourhood Watch Association:**

Alice expressed an interest in being one of the two representatives to the association – she would confirm this at the next meeting.

### **c) Calendar Dates for 2022-23:**

These would be presented at the next meeting.

## **4. Correspondence**

### **SDC Play Area Consultation**

SDC are carrying out a survey regarding their 32 council owned play areas across the district. Members were encouraged to access the survey. The deadline for response was 24 June.

### **SDC Committee Work Programme 2022/23**

SDC Democratic Services had forwarded the Committee Work Plans for 2022/23. The 4 Committees are: Community services and Licensing; Environment; Housing; Strategy and Resources. It was agreed that as per last year, the SDYC Leadership Team would explore these at their next meeting.

### **Member of Youth Parliament for Stroud and Cotswold**

A new Member of Youth Parliament for Stroud and Cotswold had recently been elected – Maya Samuel. She is keen to meet up and explore how she can support the work of SDYC and vice-versa. It was noted that Maya would probably attend the forthcoming BYC Regional Convention in Exeter. Members agreed to invite her to the next SDYC Main Group Meeting.

## **5. Levelling Up Fund – Bid from Stroud: Chris McGregor-Eadie, SDC Project Manager**

Chris gave an overview of the project bid to the UK government Levelling-Up Fund. The project is focused on the development of Stroud Town and surrounding area and whilst being led by SDC, it included other organisations including Stroud Town Council. The bid features a three-part approach:

Gateway Spaces – the green space around Wallbridge and the public square outside the Subscription Rooms.

Business Growth – the development of an 'incubator' facility for growing small businesses on brownfield sites.

Cultural Landmarks – this would feature improving access to Landsdown Hall, the Subscription Rooms and the Brunel Goods Shed. Future improvements to cycle routes and those for pedestrians, including Brunel Mall

were also part of the bid.

Members questioned as to whether young people were being consulted on this – Chris confirmed that this conversation was the start of that inclusive work and more could be carried out at a future planning stage, if the bid was successful. He asked if SDYC would consider writing a letter of support, to be included in the bid – deadline for this was 24 June.

Chris was thanked for his presentation and following his departure from the meeting, members agreed to give an 'in-principle' letter of support to this project and bid. The letter would be drafted and co-signed by Chairperson and Leader.

## **6. Updates from School & College Councils and Local Youth Forum Groups**

Archway School – whilst no response had been received from the school head regarding a potential new representative who had expressed interest, further communication from Cate would hopefully encourage the school to make contact.

Berkeley Vale YF – no representatives were present.

Cam & Dursley YF – the group has made progress with their Pedestrian Safety Project and were pleased to hear that Stroud District Council were calling for speed limits in rural towns and villages, to be lowered to 20 mph. It was planned that consultation would be carried out with local businesses in Dursley and further to that, a conversation would be had with the county council highways division.

Cainscross YF - no representatives were present.

Chalford Cubed YF – no representatives were present.

Hardwicke YF – no representatives were present.

Katharine Lady Berkeley School – no representatives were present.

Maidenhill School – no representatives were present.

Marling School – no report.

Nailsworth & Minchinhampton YF – the group were due to meet again this week.

Rednock School – no report.

Stonehouse Action 4 Youth – no representatives present.

Stroud High School – no report.

Stroud Town & 5 Valleys YF – a response had finally been received from Stroud Town Council regarding 'The Bench Project', with news that one had been refurbished.

Thomas Keble School – no representatives present.

Wotton YF – no representatives present.

## **7. Address from Former SDYC Member and Chairperson, Helen March**

Helen was welcomed to the meeting. As a former member for 4 years and Chairperson for 18 months, Helen spoke of her gratitude in being invited back to a meeting, as well as a feeling of nostalgia of being in the Council Chamber of Ebley Mill – a place that was not open during her last 6 months as Chairperson before retiring.

During her address to members, Helen highlighted her pleasure in seeing the progress that had been made, in enabling SDYC to interact with SDC and increase their involvement in decision-making – particularly that of performance monitoring of council services, plus the assessment of committee work programmes at the start of the year. These were all things that she helped lobby extensively for, during her time as a member.

Helen reflected further on her time as a member, particularly in the work of influencing policies that affect young people locally and nationally. As a Representative to the British Youth Council (BYC), she felt this was significant personally and for SDYC, despite the relationship with the BYC sometimes being strained. Presenting new and amended policy motions for their Manifesto at their Annual Council Meeting, were highlights – this was followed by acknowledgement of such impact by receiving on behalf of SDYC, the BYC Youth Voice Star award for Youth-led Organisation.

Whilst still at university completing an English and history degree, and considering a Masters degree, she credited her experiences with SDYC and BYC as proving a perfect reference point of her learning of a wide range of skills, particularly regarding communication, leadership and working in a team. Helen added, that alongside her studies, she is an editor of Epigram (a top student newspaper in the UK) and the Chief Academic Officer for Bristol's history society - an elected role. She further credits her ability to carry out these roles, as stemming from the development of confidence and the skills, gained through the work as an SDYC

member.

Helen summarised, by encouraging current and future youth voice representatives to make the most of the opportunities that come from being involved – the training, the events, and activities, plus the chance to stand for election in the many unique roles SDYC have to offer.

Helen was thanked for her presentation and encouraging words of wisdom and for sharing her reflections.

### **8. Local Strategic Partnership Report, 10 June 2022 from Cate James-Hodges**

Cate attended the partnership meeting, in her role as SDYC Leader. The meeting theme was: Support for Ukraine, subsequently various presentations were given by those organisations that are involved in this specific work. The upcoming play area consultation being undertaken by SDC (as per item in Correspondence) was promoted. Whilst the SDYC 2022/23 Manifesto was highlighted by Cate in 'partner updates' it was difficult to make a tangible link to the theme, although in retrospect the statement titled, Youth Voice and Safeguarding did put into context the reality for young people in Ukraine and those being displaced and becoming refugees.

### **9. British Youth Council (BYC) Report**

Steve ran through the latest BYC Members Newsletter and highlighted the following: Alongside the promotion of the regional youth voice conventions (YouthCon) on 25 June, most news related to Members of Youth Parliament (which doesn't relate directly to SDYC). A couple of opportunities promoted included: mentoring for those wishing to explore a career in politics (16-30 year olds); a chance to attend the Rethinking Education conference; and participation in the Commonwealth Youth Forum consultation. Plans for SDYC to attend the Southwest YouthCon in Exeter were underway and attendees would be confirmed in due course.

### **10. Acknowledgment of Members Service**

Steve presented data graphs on the participation figures for members of SDYC, these are acknowledged and recorded as volunteer hours. The data reflected the impact of covid pandemic, in being a barrier to members participating. However, it also highlighted the huge work that members do as youth voice representatives regardless of 'external factors'.

Members who had accumulated the most hours and in the top 5 'volunteers' for 2021/22, were:

Maxie Wells – 59.67 hours  
Ben Stone – 60.92 hours  
Tom Wickham-Bassett – 65.12 hours  
Cate James-Hodges and Brandon Watkins – 84.83 hours (each)

All members were congratulated on their participation, through hard work and commitment.

Further to the above, Helen March (guest) presented the following members with their Service Awards:

Fin Smith – Three Year Service Award  
Morgan Smith - Three Year Service Award  
Maxie Wells - Three Year Service Award

Those also receiving service awards, but were not present, were:

Megan Land – One Year Service Award  
Ellie Archer – Three Year service Award  
Emma Champion (retired) – Three Year Service Award.

Helen was thanked again for her attendance and was presented with a Four Year Service Award in retrospect of her achievement, by Steve.

## **11. Election Results and Nominations 2022/23 (Round 2)**

### **a) Round 2 Results from online elections:**

Vice Chairperson – (\*one nominee: Maxie Wells). Maxie was elected.

Principal Member for Anti-Bullying – No nominees

Principal Member for Environment – (\*one nominee: Megan Land). Megan was elected.

Principal Member for Health and Wellbeing - (\*one nominee: Morgan Smith). Morgan was elected.

Principal Member for Local Democracy - (\*one nominee: Tom Wickham-Bassett). Tom was elected.

Representatives to the British Youth Council (x 2) – (\*three nominees: Alice Standing; Fin Smith; Morgan Smith). Alice and Fin were elected.

\*denotes that the option of, 'Re-open Nominations' was an option in these elections.

### **b) Round 3 Nominations:**

The role of Principal Member for Anti-Bullying will be reopened to nominations in Round 3.

## **12. SDYC Project Teams and Focus Groups** – self nomination (voting and deputy members)

Members were encouraged to become active members of either the two project teams (Anti-Bullying and Environment) which work on one project; and / or the two focus groups (Health and Local Democracy), which work on more than one project. It was noted that some members had already put themselves forward to participate in the work of these teams and groups.

## **13. Creation of awareness event calendar (Day - Week – Month)**

Following a discussion on what an awareness event calendar was, it agreed that one should be created in which to assist with the promotion and celebration of significant youth related events that happen on an annual basis. Brandon, Cate, Maxie and Morgan agreed to compile this, with the support of Seb.

## **14. Dates of Forthcoming Meetings and Events**

- a) BYC Southwest Youth Voice Convention (YouthCon), Exeter College – 25 June 2022
- b) 2030 Community Engagement Board Meeting – 30 June 2022
- c) SDYC Safeguarding Standards Group Meeting – 4 July 2022
- d) SDYC Leadership Team Meeting – 12 July 2022

## **15. Officer and Leader Photoshoot**

Photos of individual officers and leaders were taken, with view to group photos being taken at a later date, when all were present.

## **16. Any Other Business**

### **a) Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group**

Following a short discussion, it was agreed that as Cate and Megan were representing SDYC on the Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group (GYCG), they would give regular updates on the work of the GYCG at future SDYC Main Group Meetings. An agenda item will be dedicated to this at the next meeting.

### **b) Training and Information for Manifesto Commitments**

Cate suggested that training and information gaining events / activities would be good, with regards to various statements in the SDYC Manifesto; particularly that of the following commitments: Disability, Learning Difficulty and Neurodiversity; and Promotion of Racial Equality. It was agreed that this should be explored further.

## **17. Date of the Next Meeting:** Monday 18 July 2022